



Nov. 2016



2016 ACTIVITIES AT THE BARKER HUGHESVILLE AND CARPENTER SNOW CREEK SUPERFUND SITES IN THE LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

Town of Neihart

- The 2009 Record of Decision requires removal of mine wastes above action levels from residential yards, impacted properties adjacent to residences, unpaved roadways in and around the town of Neihart; as well as the removal of Belt Creek Tailings.
 - The EPA Helena office made a request to EPA-Headquarters for construction funding in November 2015. As of now, the funding of the Neihart cleanup may occur in 2017. Some initial work has been done. For example, the first 250 feet of Carpenter Creek road was paved by the State of Montana in 2015.
- Work the first year will likely include:
 - Infrastructure improvements along Carpenter Creek Road,
 - Removal of the Belt Creek Tailings.
- Anticipate four or five years of construction to complete all Neihart work.
- Property owners in Neihart who may need to handle mine waste encountered during outdoor construction activities (septic tank repairs, home renovations, etc.) have the option to get clean soils through the Property Owner Soil Management Plan funded by EPA.

Documents Required to Support Cleanup Decisions

- Remedial Investigation (RI) Reports for both Sites. The RI Reports characterize the nature and extent of mine waste on privately owned mine claims and the Lewis and Clark National Forest.
 - The Barker Hughesville RI Report was completed in June, 2016.
 - The Carpenter Snow Creek RI Operable Units (OUs) 2 and 3 Report is in the final stages of work and is expected to be completed by February or March 2017.
- Feasibility Studies, required to evaluate cleanup options, are being done at both sites.
 - Limited to Galena Creek (OU-1) at Barker Hughesville and Carpenter Creek (Ou-3) at this time.
 - The current Feasibility Studies for OU-1 at Barker-Hughesville and OU-3 at Carpenter-Snow Creek are ongoing and are expected to be completed in 2017.
 - The 2nd phase of Feasibility Studies will include the Dry Fork Belt Creek (OU-2) and the Snow Creek and Neihart Slope drainages (OU-2).



- USFS expressed interest in taking the lead for Dry Fork Belt Creek OU-2 work effort.
- Cleanup decisions (Record of Decisions) are expected in late 2017/early 2018.

Other Activities

- Agencies plan to conduct pilot tests regarding the passive treatment of mine waters at Carpenter Snow Creek. These tests include:
 - Quick Lime (Aquafix) at the Silver Dyke mine in Carpenter Creek,
 - Plans for a Biochemical Reactor at Big Seven mine in Snow Creek, and
 - Plans for a Caustic Treatment system using Sodium Hydroxide at the Compromise mine shaft on the Neihart Slope.
- Agencies are also talking with landowners at both sites on options for additional water treatment opportunities, potential on-site waste consolidation, waste pile treatment and revegetation, as well as logging on private holdings.
- In 2016, the agencies approved plans and oversaw the sampling of surface water, mine adit water, groundwater, soils and sediments at multiple locations.
 - Over 300 samples were collected (total for both sites).
 - As needed, field work will continue in 2017.
- Additional wetland delineation on the Neihart Slope, Belt Creek and Snow Creek was completed in 2016, with a report due in early 2017.
- On-going maintenance of mine waste excavations at the Block P Mine and Mill site (Barker Hughesville) and the Silver Dyke Tailings site (Carpenter Snow Creek). This includes:
 - Vegetation monitoring, erosion control, & water sampling,
 - Tree planting in the waste removal areas, and
 - Road improvements due to heavy rains this summer.

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